

# Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Watersheds Basin Rule

Stakeholder Meetings  
June & July 2006

# LOER

- The Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery (LOER) Plan was presented to the public on October 10, 2005.
- The plan includes: (see [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov))
  - Fast Track Reservoir & STA Projects (SFWMD)
  - LO Regulation Schedule Revisions (USACE)
  - Set TMDLs for Tributaries (FDEP)
  - Fertilizer BMPs (FDACS)
  - Alternative Storage (SFWMD)
  - Innovative Land-Use Planning (FDCA)
  - Eliminate Land Application of Residuals (FDEP)
  - Continued Implementation of LOPP & LOWP

# Revise ERP






- The LOER Plan also included Revisions to the Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) requirements for basins draining to Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.
- The primary purpose of this component is to reduce nutrient loading from new development in the watershed.

# Special Basin Rule

- Proposed is a basin rule currently known as the Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Watersheds Basin Rule.
- The requirements in a basin rule supplement the existing ERP requirements for projects within a specific basin boundary.
- The Governing Board Authorized initiation of Rule Development on February 8, 2006.

*Gulf  
of  
Mexico*

*Atlantic  
Ocean*

-  Basin Boundary
-  SFWMD North Boundary
-  Canals
-  County Lines
-  Water Bodies



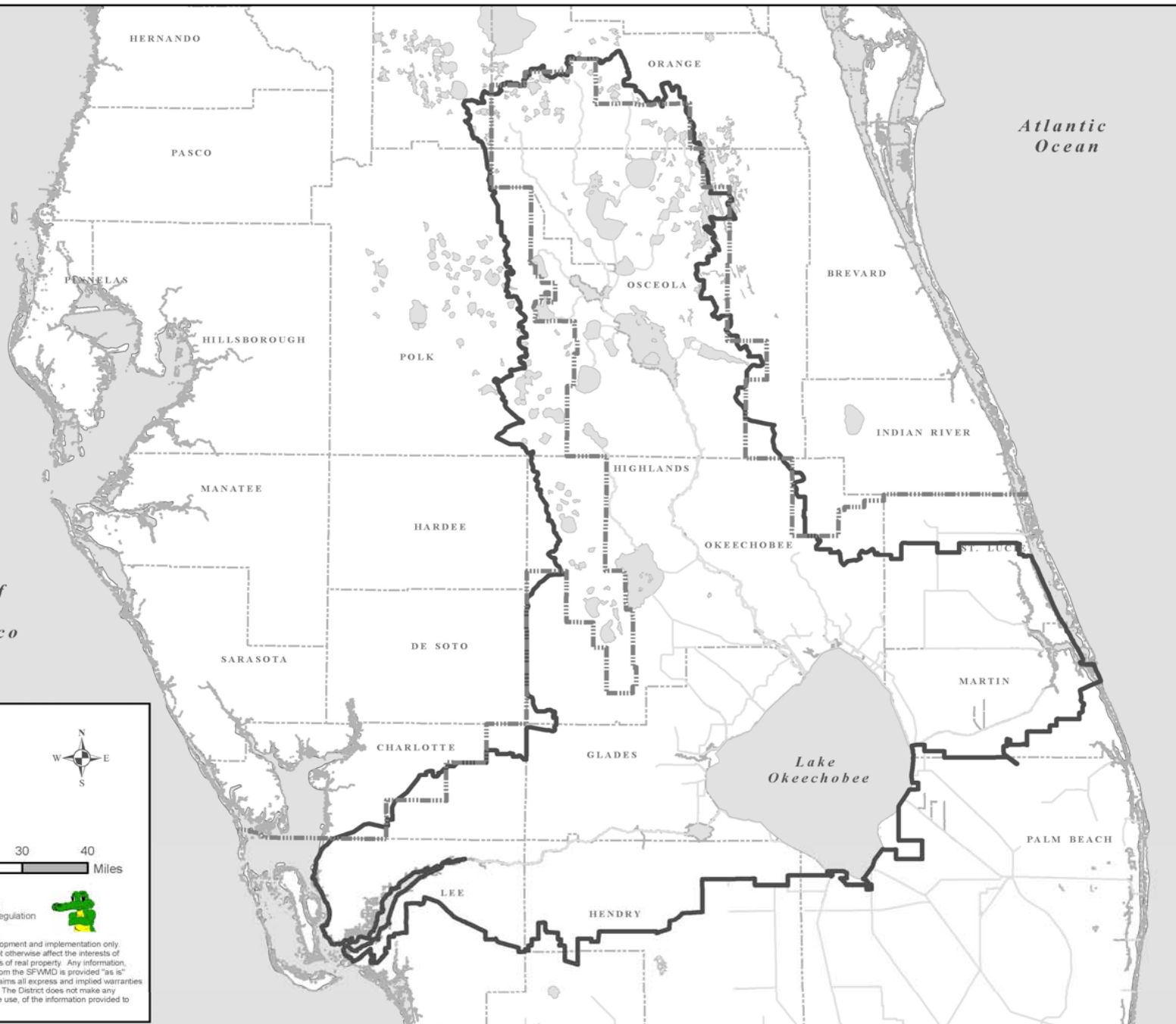
0 5 10 20 30 40  
Miles



Map made by: Lynn J. Cox  
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Map Date: June 13, 2006



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# Current Requirements

- Existing Water Quality criteria is generally wet detention of 1 inch of runoff or 2.5 inches times the percentage of imperviousness, whichever is greater.
- Existing Water Quantity criteria will generally not exceed the peak discharge rate from a pre-development condition or a basin discharge formula.

# Current Requirements

- In addition to the existing ERP criteria, the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act (LOPA) requires projects resulting in land use changes demonstrate that they will not increase the current phosphorus load discharging off-site.
- Currently a phosphorus budget analysis or modeling is used to provide assurances that this requirement is met.

# Basin Rule Concept

- Develop separate criteria for quality and quantity.
- Develop BMP menu system to achieve 80% removal of nutrients for proposed use (state water policy, 62-40, F.A.C.).
- Develop model to estimate annual discharge volume pre and post development (model includes ground water/surface water interaction, ET, BMPs, etc.)



# Basin Rule Concept

- BMPs in menu system are new and likely to have performance and compliance issues
- What is pre development condition?
- If pre is existing condition, how much reduction is required?

# Other Issues

- Small projects could be economically impacted, size threshold may be needed
- Should road projects be excluded?
- Agricultural projects may need separate criteria
- Encourage more wetland acreage for long term storage
- Need incentives
- Water quality monitoring?

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